Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 8, 14, 20 and 23. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An automated gripper for grasping a fiber optic cable, comprising:

a first finger that has a distal end;

a second finger that has a distal end that is separated from said distal end of said first finger by a space;

a pin that is coupled to said distal ends of said first and second fingers and extends across said space to limit a movement of the fiber optic cable between said first and second fingers; and,

an actuator coupled to said second finger.

2. (Original) The gripper of claim 1, wherein said first finger has a V-shaped groove.

3. (Original) The gripper of claim 1, wherein said pin is attached to said first finger and extends through an aperture in said second finger.

4. (Original) The gripper of claim 1, wherein said actuator is coupled to said first finger and moves said first and second fingers in an inward direction and an outward direction.

5. (Previously Presented) The gripper of claim 2, wherein said V-shaped groove is located along said first finger so that a portion of the fiber optic cable extends below a bottom surface of said first finger and said second finger.

6. (Original) The gripper of claim 1, further comprising a return spring coupled to said first and second fingers.

7. (Original) The gripper of claim 1, wherein said actuator includes a pneumatic cylinder.

8. (Currently Amended) An automated gripper for grasping a fiber optic cable, comprising:

a first finger that has a groove and a bottom surface located at an outermost distal location of said first finger, said groove having a location so that a portion of the fiber optic cable extends beyond said bottom surface;

a second finger; and,

an actuator coupled to said second finger to cause relative movement between said first and second fingers and grasp the fiber optic cable.

9. (Original) The gripper of claim 8, wherein said groove has a V-shape.

10. (Original) The gripper of claim 8, further comprising a pin that is attached to said first finger and extends through an aperture in said second finger.

11. (Original) The gripper of claim 8, wherein said actuator is coupled to said first finger and moves said first and second fingers in an inward direction and an outward direction.

12. (Original) The gripper of claim 8, further comprising a return spring coupled to said first and second fingers.

13. (Original) The gripper of claim 8, wherein said actuator includes a pneumatic cylinder.

14. (Currently Amended) An automated gripper for grasping a fiber optic cable, comprising:

a first finger that has a bottom surface located at an outermost distal location of said first finger and means for extending a portion of the fiber optic cable beyond said bottom surface;

a second finger; and,

an actuator coupled to said second finger to cause relative movement between said first and second fingers and grasp the fiber optic cable.

15. (Original) The gripper of claim 14, wherein said means includes a V-shaped groove.

16. (Original) The gripper of claim 14, further comprising a pin that is attached to said first finger and extends through an aperture in said second finger.

17. (Original) The gripper of claim 14, wherein said actuator is coupled to said first finger and moves said first and second finger in an inward direction and an outward direction.

18. (Original) The gripper of claim 14, further comprising a return spring coupled to said first and second fingers.

19. (Original) The gripper of claim 14, wherein said actuator includes a pneumatic cylinder.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for gripping a fiber optic cable, comprising:

moving a gripper until a fiber optic cable makes contact with a pin that extends across a space between a first finger and a second finger; and,

moving the second finger to grasp the fiber optic cable.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the fiber optic cable moves into a V-shaped groove of the first finger.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein a portion of the fiber optic cable extends below a bottom surface of the first finger and the second finger.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for gripping a fiber optic cable, comprising:

actuating a gripper to cause relative movement between~~so that~~ a first finger and a second finger of the gripper and grasp the fiber optic cable, the grasped fiber optic cable having a

portion that extends below a bottom surface of the first finger and the second finger, the bottom surface being located at an outermost distal location of the first finger.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the fiber optic cable is located within a V-shaped groove of the first finger.